rationalised the selection procedure by SSBs where final rejections take place.

An 'Image Projection Campaign' has been launched with the assistance of a professional media agency to highlight the positive and unique aspects of the Army as a career option. The measure has been initiated to plug the existing information gap and make youth aware of the excellent opportunities awaiting them in case they join the Army as an officer.

The Government have since issued orders revising the pay scales and allowances of the Armed Forces Officers and other ranks. Some of the redeeming features are as follows:

(a) The pay scale of Brigadier and equivalent in services has been revised to Rs. 16700-450-18050/- in improvement of the Pay Commission recommended scale of Rs. 15350-450-17600/-.

(b) The rank of 2nd Lt. and equivalent has been abolished and all officers on commissioning are now graduated to the rank of Lt. and equivalent in the starting pay of Rs. 8250/- (Pay scale Rs. 8250-300-10050). this is higher than the starting pay of Rs. 8000/- for a new entrant to Group 'A' service on the civil side.

(c) The stipend granted to Cadet trainees in the Service Academic has been steeply raised to Rs. 8000/- per month from the existing rate of Rs. 1500/- per month.

It is expected that the above measures will go a long way to substantially increase the attractiveness of Armed Forces as a career option.

In view of the above, it is not considered necessary to conduct any such survey at this juncture.

Ban on purchase of guns from Bofors

44. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government (JPC) has placed a ban on the purchase of ammunition from the Bofors company for the 155 mm guns purchased from it; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to indigenise production of ammunition?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Embargo was placed on business dealings with M/s Bofors in December, 1989 by the Government and not by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The embargo prohibits the purchase of any item from M/s Bofors and is not specific or confined to ammunition.

An Empowered Task Group has been constituted to identify and indigenise as many items as possible.

Self sufficiency in Defence production

45. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a long-term plan upto 2005 for achieving 70% self-sufficiency in defence production from present level of 40%;

(b) if so, important details of the plan finalised with investment/project profiles and order of investments and phasing thereof;

(c) what were the targets of defence production for the last three years ending upto 31st March, 1997 and achievements reported thereunder;

(d) details of on-going major projects and progress achieved thereof during 1996-97 and investment proposed during 1997-98 on these projects, project-wise; and

(e) details of fresh initiatives taken to avail of latest technologies on long-term basis in defence production through joint production ventures with friendly countries to meet defence requirements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e) Defence production is undertaken in the Ordnance Factories and Defence PSUs supported by Defence Research and Development Organisation as per the requirements of armed forces. A ten year plan upto 2005 for achieving self-sufficiency in Defence Systems has been evolved. The thrust towards self reliance will be made along three lines (i) sustaining existing systems through indigenisation of spares, (ii) upgrading viable existing systems and stretching their life and capability and (iii) inducting indigenised systems progressively and minimising import of major systems. With the indigenous design and development of MBT ARJUN, various missiles under Integrated Guided Missiles Development Programme (IGMDP), Electronic Warfare (EW) system and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), the country is hopeful to become generally self-reliant in defence systems by the year 2005. In 1997-98, a budget of Rs. 1678 crores has been proposed against allocation of Rs. 1458 crores in 1996-97.

The target for defence production vis-a-vis achievement during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	O F B		D P S Us	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1994-95	2200	1986	4282	4357
1995-96	2300	2308	4850	4673
1996-97	2530	2561	5465	5551

The on-going major projects under Defence Production are as follows:-

Ordnance Factories

(a) New filling factory being set up at Badmal in Bolangir district for high calibre ammunition. The investment proposed during 1997-98 is Rs. 17.38 crores. Ten types of 155mm ammunition have been productionised.

(b) 5.56mm ammunition project at Ammunition Factory Kirkee and Ordnance Factory Varangaon. Production has already commenced. The investment proposed during 1997-98 is Rs. 67.8 crores including FFE.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

(a) The Advanced Light Helicopter project for the army and its variants for Air Force and Navy. First Batch production has commenced. The investment proposed during 1997-98 is Rs. 83.64 crores.

(b) Development of MiG-21 BIS update project is awaiting completion. Production is likely in 1998-99. The investment proposed during 1997-98 is Rs. 7.65 crores.

(c) Overhauling of MiG-27 M airframes has commenced and of RD-33 engines likely to start in 1997-98. The investment proposed during 1997-98 is Rs. 0.53 crores.

No fresh joint venture project for defence production is under consideration.

DOT proposal to surrender certain Radio-frequencies

46. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Ministry has rejected the idea of DOT to surrender certain radio